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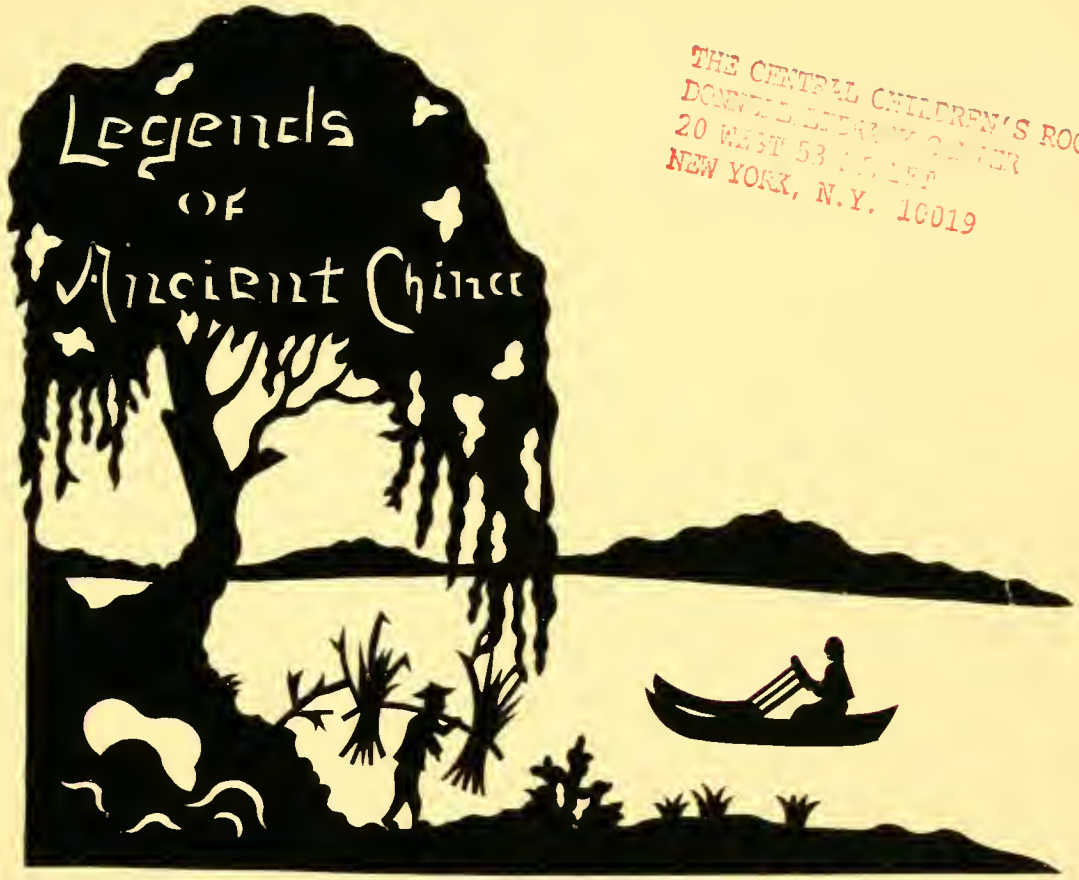

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WEN YEN BEH AND THE LOST BALL

Some children were playing with their ball, which suddenly fell into the hole of a hollow tree. They poked in vain to get it out, when one of their number, Wen Yen Beh, had the bright idea of pouring in some water. He ran to get a pail, filled the hole with water, and the ball was easily secured. He later on became a ruler.

文 彥 博

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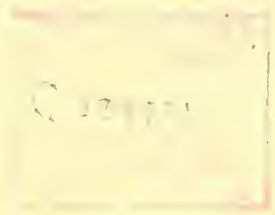

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張良和黃石公

ZHANG LIANG AND WHANG SHI GUNG

Zhang Liang, a student, was walking along one day when he came to a bridge and saw an old man sitting there with his shoe on the ground in front of him. With unusual courtesy Zhang Liang stooped and put the shoe on the foot of the old man, who was really one of the Sages in disguise. The sage was so pleased with this act of courtesy that he told the boy to come to the bridge very early the next morning and he would tell him what would affect his whole life. The boy went to the bridge very early, but the sage was there ahead of him, and all he received that morning was a lecture on his lazy habits. He was told to go again, and the next morning went at dawn, but still the Sage was ahead of him and he was reprimanded very severely this time and told to come again on the third morning. This time the boy went to the bridge right after his supper and spent the night there. When the Sage came at dawn he was greatly pleased to find Zhang Liang there ahead of him, and gave him instruction of such value that when he grew up he became a great general.

張良和黃石公

DJANG LIANG AND WHANG HSI GUNG

Djang Liang, a student, was walking along one day when he came to a bridge and saw an old man sitting there with his shoe on the ground in front of him. With unusual courtesy Djang Liang stooped and put the shoe on the foot of the old man, who was really one of the Sages in disguise. The sage was so pleased with this act of courtesy that he told the boy to come to the bridge very early the next morning and he would tell him what would affect his whole life. The boy went to the bridge very early, but the sage was there ahead of him, and all he received that morning was a lecture on his lazy habits. He was told to go again, and the next morning went at dawn, but still the Sage was ahead of him and he was reprimanded very severely this time and told to come again on the third morning. This time the boy went to the bridge right after his supper, and spent the night there! When the Sage came at dawn he was greatly pleased to find Djang Liang there ahead of him, and gave him instruction of such value that when he grew up he became a great general.

韓信和小孩

HAN HSIN AND HSIAO HIEN

Han Hsin was a mighty man of valor. No one could beat him in a fight, but Hsiao Hien, a young and boastful fellow came to Han Hsin and challenged him to a fight. He told Han Hsin that if he were defeated he would not object in the least if his head were cut off, but that if he won then Han Hsin would have to get down and crawl between his knees! Han Hsin looked at the young fellow and thought what a pity to kill so fine a young man, and knew that he could easily defeat him, yet did not care to do so. So, he got down and crawled between the legs of the young man! Han Hsin lost face so he had to retire, but not for long, as an enemy lord soon attacked his overlord and he was summoned to help. The soon led the army to victory and was raised to a very high position. Then, saying that he would rather be the friend than the enemy of Hsiao Hien, he sent for him and made him ruler over a small section of the country.

韓信和少年

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王蘭見僧發願

OUTWITTING OF WANG SHEN

The Sage Wang Shen had two disciples,—Sun Bin and Pan Djuen. One day they came along and found him sitting in a cave. Wishing to test their ingenuity, he told them that neither of them could make him leave this cave. They tried every way they could, but to no avail. One said, "O come out and see those two dragons fighting on the hills! But the sage did not believe him. The other said, "Now you will have to come out, for here comes the neighboring lord and his retinue. You will have to come and receive him." "Not I," said Wang Shen; "for that lord was just here past here within the hour." "Well," said one in despair, "if only I could get you out once, I could make you go back in again." At once the sage came out of the cave. "Now, make me go back in again." "Ah, no," said the disciple. "All I really wanted was to get you out!"

王圖 龐涓 孫臏

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伪 友 害 己 文

THE FRIEND WHO FAILED

Two friends were walking together when suddenly they came upon a bear. One of them forsook his companion and ran to a tree. The other, who was not a good runner, could not reach the tree, so lay down and feigned death. The bear came up to him and sniffed and sniffed all over his body. He sniffed so long at the ear of the prostrate man that the one in the tree called out "Is he talking to you? What does he say?" Quite indignant at being left to face the bear alone, the man on the ground replied. "Yes, he is telling me to have nothing to do with a worthless friend!"

勿交不義之友

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HOW THE FROGS GOT THEIR CROAK

An old man and his wife were walking over a bridge. Stooping to look over the railing, the woman dropped her melon (gwa) and in trying to get it back the man lost his staff ("Gwer" in N. China). Then in attempting the rescue of his staff the man fell into the water. The woman tried to save him and also fell in and both were drowned. The gods in pity changed them into frogs, and now the old woman cries "Gwa, gwa," want my gwa," while her husband intently shouts, "Gwer, gwer," The combined sounds come to be "Gwa-gwer, gwa-gwer, gwer-gwer, gwa-gwer," to the end of time.

視瓜

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司　馬　光

STORY OF SI MAH GWANG

Some children were playing together when one of their number fell into a tall water jar, and was in danger of being drowned. The other children ran shrieking for help, all except Si Mah Gwang, who, wiser than the others, seized a stone, threw it at the water gang and broke a hole in it. The water rushed out and the child's life was saved. Clever Si Mah Gwang later became a ruler.